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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Ancient, Curious, and Famous Wills.* By Virgil M. Harris, Lecturer on Wills in St. Louis University. Boston. Little, Brown & Co., 1911. pp. xiii, 472.

This work contains a most interesting and valuable collection of wills, ancient, curious and famous. It is well arranged, and the reader finds much food for thought within its pages. Here the reader's attention is directed to the fact that a person's writings comprise one of the clearest and most lasting mirrors of his character. The vagaries of the human mind appear in strong relief in many of the curious wills which have been placed in this collection. The author has collected about five hundred wills, commencing with the dawn of creation, the traditional will of our father Adam, and closing with that very modern will of Mary Baker G. Eddy. The most valuable portion of the work when considered as an aid in drawing testamentary documents is that part of the work which contains the wills of famous Americans and famous foreigners. Some of these wills are excellent and can well serve as models, while others show a surprising lack of knowledge of what formalities are necessary for a properly drawn will and contain many things which should never be placed in a will. In his first chapter the author discusses the importance of the last will and testament and gives many practical suggestions as to what a will should contain and points out the pitfalls to be avoided. The work is one which has required careful study, and exhaustive research and labor on the part of the author. As it is most interesting and instructive, it should appeal to the members of the legal profession and individuals who are interested in tracing history and customs as they are portrayed in the wills of people of the various ages.

*Commentaries on the Law of Municipal Corporations.* By John Forrest Dillon, LL.D. Fifth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Five Volumes, cix, 3812. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1911.

The learned and illustrious author of these Commentaries was born in Montgomery County, New York, on Christmas Day of 1831. Going to Iowa in early youth, he graduated in medicine from Iowa University, but soon gave up this profession for the